



Plan for your future now.



Get in the Game.

Make graduation
your goal.

Contest!



GRADES 9-10 Winner

You could win \$529 for college! One winner in each grade will receive \$529 in an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Savings Plan, good for any education-related expenses. Learn more about the 529 Savings Plans at LearnMoreIndiana.org/529.

Here's the game plan:

- 1) Fill out your name and other information on this page.
- 2) Complete the **"Plan Your Future!"** activity on the following page.
- 3) Mail both pages to:

Learn More Indiana
Attn: Contests
101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 550
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or, scan both pages and email them to
contests@learnmore.org.

NAME:	<u>Madyson Stricher</u>
GRADE:	<u>9</u>
SCHOOL:	<u>Columbia City High School</u>
ADI	_____
CIT'	_____ INDIANA
ZIP:	_____
PHC	_____
EM.	_____

Don't sit on the sidelines! All entries must be postmarked

e both pages.

After completing the "Plan Your Future!" activity, ask yourself:
How does my high school plan match with my college and career plan?

Please see typed pages

CollegeGoWeekIndiana.org



LearnMoreIndiana.org

High School Havoc

What do you think of when you think of your high school experience? You might think of friends, of fun, of football and basketball games, of the time of your life. You probably rarely think of hard work and planning for the future. I, though, think of both. To maximize your high school experience, you must find your balance between preparation and living in the moment. I have found my balance by maintaining good grades, taking practice standardized tests like the PSAT, and taking AP and Dual Credit courses in the future.

For a long period of time, I have known that I want to attend Cornell University and major in computer science, then become a software engineer. I have always maintained good grades, working hard on my academic accomplishments. I complete all my homework and pay attention in class, as well as ask questions if I don't understand. Cornell has very high standards, and I know that it is my responsibility to make sure I meet the requirements if I want to be accepted. I have to be the best that I can be, and keeping good grades is a significant part of that. Keeping my eye on the prize has kept me motivated, and it will throughout my high school career.

Over 75% of freshmen at Cornell were in the top 10% of their high school class as well as scoring over 29 on the ACT (Cornell University). Due to these prestigious statistics, I have realized how important it is for me to prepare for standardized college admissions tests like the ACT and SAT. For the past two years, I have taken the PSAT, otherwise known as the Practice SAT. The score analysis that we receive after taking the tests give me a good idea of what areas I am doing well in and which I need to work on. I can then focus my attention on the areas of study that I lack expertise in, allowing me to further my skills.

When I bring my skills up to par, I can then enter my high school's Advanced Placement, or AP, and Dual Credit programs (Dual Credit). I am already enrolled in honors classes, which will prepare me for the rigorous schedule AP and Dual Credit provide. AP courses will fine-tune my abilities even more, making me a much more competitive student in the admissions process. Dual Credit courses will allow me to obtain some of the basic needed credits to graduate from college, like Math, Social Studies, English, and Science (Dual Credit). This practice will allow me to graduate in a lesser amount of time and at a lower cost (Dual Credit). Both types of advanced courses will give me a head start in college and my life afterwards.

My balance of maintaining good grades, taking practice tests, and taking AP and Dual Credit courses in the future is perfect for me. By doing all of these things, I will accomplish my goal of graduating from Cornell University and becoming a software engineer. As Anna Quindlen said, "The future is built on brains, not prom court, as most people can tell you after attending their high school reunion" (Anna Quindlen). Though it is a great idea to balance responsibility with fun, it is always best to focus on your academics. Brains will take you many places, like it will take me to Cornell.

Works Cited

Anna Quindlen. (n.d.). Retrieved Oct. 22, 2013, from BrainyQuote:

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/annaquindl408826.html>

Cornell University. (n.d.). Retrieved Oct. 22, 2013, from Navigation 101:

http://www.navigation101.com/collegedetail;jsessionid=4DD95440BBA35BEFC41897DC5216BBA4?inun_id=5976

Dual Credit. (n.d.). Retrieved Oct. 22, 2013, from Columbia City High School:

<http://www.wccsonline.com/cchs/guidance/dualcredit.html>